GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4074
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2008
DUTY FREE IMPORTS FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and African countries regarding duty free imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise and item-wise;

(c) whether the Government has assessed its impact on import of prominent items and prices of domestic produces including Cocoa, Cotton etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): No Sir,India has not signed any Agreement with African countries regarding duty free imports. However, the Prime Minister has announced on 8 April, 2008, on the occasion of the India -Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi, a Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Under the said Scheme, India would provide preferential market access on 94% of India's tariff lines for exports from all the 50 LDCs, including the 34 African LDCs. The Scheme will form part of the integrated development assistance to African countries.